1 2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Madhya Pr.	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1
9 Maharashtra	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.3
10 Orissa	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.6
11 Punjab	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3
12 Rajasthan	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8
13 Tamil Nadu	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.0	1.9
14 Uttar Pr.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4
15 West Bengal	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.3

Source: SRS Estimates, RG, India

Cultivation of medicinal plants in Bengal region

1259. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants in the North Bengal and districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKALAKSHMI): (a) and (b) the Promotional and Contractual Farming Scheme of National Medicinal Plants Boards have been implemented for cultivation and development of medicinal plants in the State of West Bengal. Three (3) projects, one (1) in Coochbehar and two (2) in Darjeeling districts are going on. Further proposals as and when received through State Medicinal Plant Board as per scheme may also be considered.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in the country during 10th Five Year Plant w.e.f 2005-06 for holistic development of Horticulture Sector.

Promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants has been included as one of the components under NHM from 2006-07 .

In the Annual Action Plan, 2006-07 of West Bengal, cultivation of medicinal plant has been approved in 100 ha. Area in five districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, Nadia and North 24 Parganas (20 ha. in each district) at a cost of Rs. 11.25 lakh.

(c) Does not arise.

Testing of pathological samples in India by UK, UAE etc.

1260. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hospitals and pathological laboratories in UK, UAE and Bangladesh are wanting to get their pathological samples tested in India;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would make some safeguards so that the pathological testing for our citizens do not go up as a result of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Hospitals and Pathological Laboratories from UK, UAE and Bangladesh are in contact with certain private sector laboratories in India to facilitate sending of pathological samples from these countries to specific labs in India for testing. This is a recent development, hence there are no comprehensive studies available regarding the nature and extent of this business.

Clients from UK, UAE and some SAARC countries have approached companies like SRL Ranbaxy, Metropolis and DR. Lal Path Labs Pvt. Ltd. etc. for outsourcing samples for testing. SRL Ranbaxy conducts pathological test for institutions from UK, UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka etc., while Dr. Lal Path Labs Ltd. also provides these facilities.

The rates of tests conducted in Govt. Hospitals are being regulated by the Government which provide safeguards to the citizens.